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JASTROW, MORRIS, JR. *Die Religion Babyloniens und Assyriens*. 20 und 21 Lieferungen. Giessen: Töpelmann, 1913. xx+184 pages. M. 3.

This brings to an end the great task Professor Jastrow set for himself when he undertook to rewrite his *Religion of the Babylonians and Assyrians* in German. These two instalments contain the last twenty-five pages of the long chapter on omens of certain kinds. In addition, we find a full set of indexes—one to the tablets of the Kouyunjik collection referred to in these volumes, one to the various published translations of Assyrian and Babylonian texts; a glossary of all the Assyrian and Babylonian words used; a list of the names and objects treated; a list of the various authors cited; an index of biblical passages; and a list of addenda et corrigenda.

The preface for the second volume, which is attached to these final pages, is of much interest. We gladly learn that Professor Jastrow has in hand a further work upon the religion of Babylonia and Assyria, viz., a volume upon the myths, temples, and cults. It is of interest also to read Professor Jastrow's frank confession of his conversion to the acceptance of Sumerian as an actual, once-living language. The author has placed all later workers upon the religion of Babylonia and Assyria under the greatest of obligations to himself. His monumental work is not only a mine of information, but also an invaluable interpretation of the facts it so abundantly offers. May the enthusiasm and energy which have made possible the completion of this stupendous task find abundant opportunity and scope for similar activity for many years to come.

EISSFELDT, OTTO. *Der Maschal im Alten Testament. Eine wortgeschichtliche Untersuchung nebst einer literargeschichtlichen Untersuchung der מָשָׁל genannten "Volkspruchwort" und "Spottlied."* [Beihefte zur Zeitschrift für die alttestamentliche Wissenschaft, XXIV.] Giessen: Töpelmann, 1913. 72 pages. M. 3.

This is a careful study of the Hebrew word מָשָׁל. The author first of all reviews the main efforts to trace the two conceptions "rule" and "resemble," associated with this group of consonants, to a common origin and shows the inadequacy of the explanation offered. He himself wisely refrains from seeking to identify the two. He then proceeds to his main task of differentiating precisely among the various meanings borne by מָשָׁל. He finds two lines of development in the usage from the original meaning "to be like": on the one side, the popular proverb, from which proceeded the taunt-song and the "wisdom-proverb" directly, from the latter of which came the "didactic discourse"; on the other side, the parable, from which came the prophetic oracle.

This word-study is followed by a brief study of two of the types of literature denoted by מָשָׁל, viz., the popular proverb and the taunt-song. The whole task shows full acquaintance with the literature of the subject and a thoroughly scientific methodology.

DRIVER, S. R. *Notes on the Hebrew Text and the Topography of the Books of Samuel. With an Introduction on Hebrew Palaeography and the Ancient Versions and Facsimiles of Inscriptions and Maps*. 2d. ed. revised and enlarged. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1913. cxvi+390 pages. 12s.

For twenty-three years Driver's *Notes on the Hebrew Text of the Books of Samuel* has rendered splendid service in introducing students to the problems and methods of